



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE

7401 Timberlake Road

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FEMA-1458-DR-VA

Commonwealth Situation Report #24

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12 Noon Monday, April 28, 2003, through 12 Noon Tuesday, April 29, 2003 (*New information in bold italics.*)

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28 for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. All jurisdictions in the state are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed Saturdays and Sundays. The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544. Briefing meetings in DFO are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as follows: Commonwealth (COV) 8:30 a.m.; joint Federal/COV 9 a.m. The Department of Homeland Security threat level has been reduced to elevated (yellow).

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb.15-Feb.18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City. These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

The following counties and cities have been added to the Presidential declaration, FEMA-1458-DR-VA effective April 28, 2003:

Prince William, Shenandoah, and Warren, and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, for Public Assistance, Category B. only. (Emergency protective measures for a period of 48 hours)

Appomattox, Buchanan, Craig, Dickerson, Floyd, Halifax, Henry, Lee, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Scott, Wise, and Wythe Counties and the independent cities of Danville, Norton, Roanoke, and Salem for Public Assistance, all categories.

Lee, Pulaski, and Roanoke Counties for Individual Assistance.

3. WEATHER

Today: Partly sunny. A chance of showers and thunderstorms this afternoon. Warm with highs in the lower 80s. West winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent. Tonight: A chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Otherwise partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. West winds 5 to 10 mph becoming north. Chance of rain 30 percent.

4. CURRENT STATE PRIORITIES:

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas.
- B. Encourage participation in FEMA sponsored training classes for DFO staff.
- C. Implement program delivery strategies.
- D. Obtain state sum-sufficient funding for disaster.
- E. Manage expectations of disaster victims.
- F. Anticipate actions for expanded declarations.
- G. Lessons Learned revision session for FEMA-1458-DR-VA

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**A. Individual Assistance (IA):**

STATE CONTACT: Larry Braja, 434-832-8516

(As of **COB 4-28**)

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):

The deadline for applying for unemployment assistance for the original declared jurisdictions is May 15. DUA for the add-on jurisdictions, Lee, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties is now included. Applicant assistance for these three jurisdictions will be accepted for thirty days after the formal news release.

Tele-registrations:

(As of **COB 4-28**)

Tele-Registrations			
Designated Jurisdictions		Undesignated Jurisdictions	
Buchanan Co.	432	Amherst Co.	1
Dickenson Co.	136	Arlington Co.	1
Lee Co.	2	Augusta Co.	1
Montgomery Co.	45	Bedford Co.	3
Pulaski Co.	6	Botetourt Co.	1
Roanoke Co.	24	Campbell Co	1
Russell Co.	32	Franklin City.	2
Tazewell Co.	39	Halifax Co.	2
Wise Co.	167	Henry Co.	2
Norton City	23	Pittsylvania Co.	1
Roanoke City	96	Prince Williams	1
Salem City	110		
Total	1,112	Total	16

Inspection Services:
(As of **COB 4-28**)

FEMA contracted Housing Inspectors are dispatched to the damage address to assess damages for eligible registrations.

Inspections Issued, to date	747
Inspections Returned to FEMA	734
Inspections Outstanding	30
Inspectors in the Field	6
Turnaround Time	1.03

Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Overview:
(As of **COB 4-28**)

IHP is the premier federal grant program for Individual Assistance administered by FEMA and the Commonwealth. It is comprised of two components: Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance as listed below. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$25,000.00 shared between the programs two components on a first come first served basis.

Housing Assistance (HA): 100% Federal funded grants

A \$5,000.00 limit exists on grants for “housing repairs”.

Eligibility Rate	71%
Amount Approved	\$913,641.00
Amount Disbursed	\$899,991.00
Referrals	929
Approved	643
Ineligible	223
Withdrawn	34
Pending HA Categories	29

Other Needs Assistance (ONA): (75% Federal and 25% State funded Grants) Processing of referred applications to Other Needs Assistance has begun. ***Payments began Tuesday, April 29, 2003. 28 checks totaling \$103,826.00 have been sent out.***

Eligibility Rate	29%
Amount Approved	\$205,199.00
<i>Amount Disapproved</i>	\$0.00
Referrals	402
Approved	69
Ineligible	159
Withdrawn	9
Pending ONA Categories	165

Small Business Administration: 100% Federal funded low interest loans
(As of **COB 4-28**)

Home Applications Issued	416
Business Applications Issued	46
Total Applications Issued	462
Total Applications Returned	101
Total Applications Approved	24
Total Applications Pending	38
Total Applications Declined	28
Total Applications Withdrawn	11
Total Amount Approved	\$250,200.00

The SBA application return rate is at approximately 21.86 %.

The SBA workshops opened on Monday, April 28, 2003 in the DRC buildings at Salem City, Buchanan and Wise Counties. Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. M-F, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, and closed Sunday. The workshops will be open until COB Saturday May 3. Business may be extended until the Saturday, May10, 2003 if the extension is warranted.

SBA Workshops are located as follows:

- Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Forestry, 210 Riverland Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153.
- Buchanan County Courthouse, Main Street, Grundy, Virginia 24614.
- Wise County, 5701 Industrial Park Road in the town of Wise.

Following are the totals for activity at the DRC's, which were closed as of COB (6 p.m.), April 26, 2003.

- *Buchanan County 170*
- *Dickerson County 15*
- *Salem City 163*
- *Wise County 43*

B. Public Assistance (PA):

STATE CONTACT: Bob Andersen, 434-832-8506

- *Received requests for Public Assistance from the Town of Hamilton and City of Alexandria Public Schools.*
- *Kick off meetings were held with the Town of Vienna, Fauquier County, Fauquier County Airport, Fairfax City, and Department of Mental Health.*
- *Project worksheets have been written for the Town of Vienna and the Department of Mental Health.*

C. Community Relations (CR):**STATE CONTACT:** Danny Hall, 434-832-8507

- *Field officers have been deployed to the add-on jurisdictions.*
- *In Roanoke County (an add-on jurisdiction) a fatality occurred during the disaster event. Field Officers will meet with the victim's family.*

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**STATE CONTACT:** Richard Dameron, 434-832-8475

- A floodplain management workshop for local officials, consultants, and others will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2003, at the Eastern Mennonite Retirement Center in Harrisonburg, VA. To date there are **29** registered.
- A meeting with Roanoke Valley local officials [Roanoke County, Salem, Roanoke City, Vinton and Montgomery County] has been set for Monday, May 5, 2003 in Salem. The process for pre-applications/letter(s) of intent will be detailed. A similar session is planned for southwest Virginia communities in early May. This second session will probably be conducted in Wise, Virginia.
- State Hazard Mitigation staff, along with FEMA region III staff met with Congressman Boucher in Abingdon, April 24, 2003 regarding an HMGP application for Buchanan County.
- *Community Compliance Visits have been scheduled for Russell county and the city of Norton on April 29, 2003.*
- DFO Mitigation staff continue to pursue a long-term strategy for development and use of Mitigation Success Stories beyond this disaster. Plans are focusing on after-action activities to ensure long-term use of mitigation strategies for future disasters as well as continuous outreach efforts.
- *With the Public Assistance declaration, the need now exists for at least one Environment/Historic Resources Scoping meeting. The FEMA Environmental Officer is due into the DFO on Tuesday, May 6 to conduct the meeting(s). To assist preparation for the scoping event, the Mitigation staff will finalize meeting date(s) and location(s) and notify appropriate state and federal agencies by telephone during the next 24 hours. The "Green Book," a draft meeting agenda and an agency call list have been completed and are available at the DFO.*

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO)**STATE CONTACT:** Dawn Eischen, 804-697-6500 Ext 6519

- Prepared and updated news releases for DR-1458 add-ons.

F. Legislative Liaison:**STATE CONTACT:** Arthur Warren, 804-697-6500 Ext 6587

- *Notified State Legislative Representatives of the add-on counties and cities to the Presidential Declaration, FEMA-1458-DR-VA.*

G. Information and Planning

STATE CONTACT: Wally Walker, 434-832-8538

- Preparing and coordinating Lessons Learned session to be held on May 9, 2003.

H. Deputy State Coordinating Officer:

STATE CONTACT: Harry Colestock, 434-832-8560

- *New Federal Coordinating Officer, Mr. Tom Costello, arrived at the DFO on Tuesday, April 29, 2003.*
- *Current State staffing level at the DFO as of this date is 17.*
- DSCO will conduct “Lessons Learned” session on Friday, May 9, 2003 for State DFO functional components for disaster 1458-DR-VA.

(s) Harry E. Colestock III for

Michael M. Cline, SCO

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April 29, 2003/1500